Estuarine Shoreline Mapping Summit

BREAKOUT SESSION AND DISCUSSION RESULTS SUMMARY

During the afternoon of December 4th, participants were assigned to one of four breakout groups as follows: Management Group #1, Management Group #2, Technical Group #3, Technical Group #4. These groups then met to answer a set of specific questions. The morning session on December 5th was a recap of the breakout sessions with one person from each group "reporting out" on their discussions and answers to the breakout questions. The following are the questions and answers discussed during the breakout sessions and report-out.

Management Topics/Questions:

Question #1: What are your data needs? In addition to a digitized shoreline, what attributes would enhance your agency's overall effort?

Discussion from Management Group 1:

- Attributes for all agencies are infinite so it would be nice to just have an accurate defined coastline so everyone could reference the same thing and attach their own attributes that they use or collect. A more accurate coastline, however it is defined, would benefit several different agencies.
- Different agencies use a different definition of the shoreline for regulation purposes. If the shoreline is used for reference as a research or preparation tool, as long as the agencies all know what shoreline they are referencing (documented well in the metadata), they will be able to use it to their agency's needs.
- 1:24,000 shoreline maps currently available aren't accurate enough to work with anymore. The reconnaissance and preparation work we do before going in the field requires more accuracy than that.
- The final product should be in shapefile form and have lots of metadata to accurately document what shoreline is depicted and the methodology used.
- In regards to whether a continuous or noncontiguous shoreline would be better, even a noncontiguous shoreline would be better than what we have right now.

Discussion from Management Group 2:

- The final products should be in shapefile form with very good/complete metadata.
- The quality of data should be high resolution to the level of parcel scale.
- A long discussion was had on how we need to define what the shoreline is: mean high water (MHW), mean low water (MLW), mean lower low water (MLLW) and mean higher high water (MHHW) which are datum defined by actual tidal data using a gauge and apparent shoreline which is easily defined by physical data (in aerial photography).
- This process should ideally be completed on a regular cycle since the shoreline changes, (i.e. every five years or after a large event).
- Attributes vary by agency, but those specifically mentioned during discussions were: stormwater outfalls, ditches, shoreline structures (docks and marinas), and bathymetry.